

**RADM Black Retirement  
Navy Chief of Chaplains Change of Office  
CNO Remarks  
Friday, 15 August 2003**

❖ Black Family:

- **Brenda {Wife}**
- **Barry, Brendan, Bradford {Sons}**
- **Beverly, Katherine, Gloria, Iris, Lesterine {Sisters}**
- **Rodney, Lester {Brothers}**

❖ Iasiello Family:

- **Mrs. Iasiello {Hazel, Mother}**
- **Lori Scullin {Sister}**
- **Janice Bianco {Sister}**

❖ VIPs

- **Former Chiefs of Chaplains**
  - RADM Holderby
  - RADM Koeneman
  - RADM Stevenson
  - RADM White
  - RADM Trower

➤ **All Ecclesiastical Endorsers**

➤ **Other VIPs**

- ADM Fallon
- ADM Bowman
- GEN Nyland, USMC
- LGEN Kelly, USMC
- VADM Barrett, USCG
- VADM Tracey
- VADM Church
- VADM Green
- VADM Moore

➤ **Flag and General Officers**

➤ **Distinguished guests, fellow servicemen, ladies & gentlemen**

❖ **We're gathered to celebrate the naval service of Rear Admiral Barry Clayton Black**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief of Navy Chaplains and now the 62<sup>nd</sup> Chaplain of the United States Senate
- A man who committed his life to:
  - His faith
  - His family
  - His country
  - And our Navy
- “Barry” to some, Rev. Black to others...but a spiritual healer and a friend to all
- Also here to welcome RDML Lou Iasiello as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief of Navy Chaplains

❖ **Very special day for Black family**

- I'm privileged to be here, honored to speak
- Barry, T/Y for inviting me
- To all, T/Y for attending & sharing in this celebration

❖ **Ceremonies such as this are important**

➤ Allow opportunity to focus on:

- Service of individual
- Impact of that service has on institution

❖ **I truly believe being a Navy Chaplain is a vocation, a calling, a life of service of the utmost consequence**

➤ Wear Cloth of God & Cloth of Nation

- Both at the foundation of who I am

➤ We ask a lot of our young people and their families

- Sailors promise to:
  - Support & defend Constitution
  - Protect the freedoms we enjoy

- As leaders, we promise to:
  - Grow & develop the Sailors we lead
  - And give them the tools to succeed
- Our Sailors, Marines, and their families look to chaplains for so many things:
  - Prayer & Spiritual Guidance
  - Faith Development
  - Mediation & Comfort
  - Sometimes just a compassionate, listening ear
- **You make our Sailors & Marines spiritually ready**  
*{2 second pause}*

❖ **For 27-yrs ... a lifetime ... RADM Black served his God & Country as a Navy Chaplain**

- Serving our young men & women of the sea services

- And Barry...you performed superbly

*{pause}*

❖ **Barry is described by his friends and colleagues as a man of:**

➤ Faith & spirituality

➤ A man of prayer

➤ One who understands and uses the power of the spoken word

*{I'm happy I speak before Barry in the ceremony}*

➤ A healing individual

➤ **That's powerful testimony!**

*{2 second pause}*

❖ **As the story goes...**

- Barry's mother Pearline {*Pearl-een*} was pregnant w/ him when she was baptized a Christian
- She prayed to mold his thinking & consecrate him for service to the Lord
- Proverbs tells us...*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed*  
{*Pr 16-3...RADM Black's favorite book of Bible*}
- Barry, your success is a testament to your commitment to the Lord
- Pearline & Lester would be beaming if they were here today
  - Although somehow I know they're watching with pride

## ❖ Barry was drawn to the Chaplaincy in the mid-70's

- At the time, a young minister, practicing in Durham, NC
  - Already polished communicator of the Word
  - Loved working with youth
  - Young people gravitated toward him
  - Word got out about this young, charismatic, preacher
  - Sailors would make 4hr trip from Norfolk to Durham each week to hear him preach
  - When Barry asked the Sailors why they traveled so far...Sailors said
    - They enjoyed his message
    - Also, there were no black Navy chaplains in Norfolk
- Barry's calling became clear...become a Navy Chaplain

❖ **Since then, Chaplain Barry Black had the privilege of tending the spirit of the finest Sailors & Marines in the finest Navy & Marine Corps the world has ever seen**

➤ MIDN at the Naval Academy

➤ Recruits at NTC San Diego

➤ Marines in:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Air Wing/Fleet Marine Force Pacific
- USS BELLEAU WOOD
- And Marine Aircraft Group 31

➤ Sailors in:

- Norfolk, Virginia
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

➤ I met Barry on the Atlantic Fleet staff. He was Chaplain & I was Deputy & Chief of Staff

- *{Second Fleet Recollection}*

- It was wonderful to see Barry as Deputy Chief of Chaplains when I relieved as CNO
  - Soon was Chief of Chaplains
  - {*Cole or 911 Recollection*}
  
- Proverbs tells us...*He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers*  
{*Pr 19-8*}
  
- Barry, you've prospered as a man of faith
  
- You've allowed many Sailor & Marine love their soul
  
- Our Nation harvests the fruit of your labor

❖ **Brenda, you've been w/ Barry every step of the way**

➤ Married 30yrs this past June 17<sup>th</sup>

- Same day announced Barry selected as Chaplain of the Senate
- Maybe got a little more than you bargained for

➤ Example of all it means to be “Navy spouse”

- Truly a challenging way of life
- Takes strength, dedication, patience, and a generous heart
- You have it all in abundance

➤ Thank you for saying Yes...again...and continuing the lifestyle of service...

➤ Look forward to your greatest successes...yet!

*{2 second pause}*

❖ **Barry Jr., Brendan, Bradford**

➤ Thank you for your sacrifice

- The moves ...
- Dinners w/o dad ...
- For all the times you thought “I wish dad were here”

➤ Thank you for sharing your father with us

➤ We truly appreciate it!

*{2 sec pause}*

❖ **Lou...Welcome aboard!**

- I know you'd be the first to say that you have a tough act to follow
  - But I'm confident that you'll do an equally superb job and I wish you the best of luck
- Before taking over as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief of Chaplains, Lou was the Deputy Chief Chaplain & Chaplain of the Marine Corp
  - He's a leader
  - A caring & compassionate pastor
  - A Franciscan...he's shepherded Marines and Navy & Coast Guard Sailors alike  
*{USCG support center, Kodiak, AK Jul 85 – Dec 86}*
  - A Scholar...who holds a PhD in Ethics from Salve Regina University

❖ **So...Lou Iasiello begins another chapter in his lifestyle of service**

❖ **And for Barry Black**

- Your military career comes to a close...but your journey as a spiritual leader continues
- Thanks for your inspiration, your healing, your leadership
- Thank you for your willingness to continue to serve
- I wish you the best as the Senate Chaplain
  - The Navy's loss is the Senate's gain
  - America appreciates your service

➤ To You & Brenda:

- Our prayer: May life's richest blessings be yours...
- Our wish: Fair winds ... following seas ... and  
Godspeed

***{lead applause, call RADM Black to podium for  
award}***